

The Florida Press

Where Can You Beat It?

Three and four dollars a crate for celery and six and seven hundred crates to the acre looks mighty good to the growers of Manatee county. Where, oh, where, else in these United States or the universe can this be beat?—Manatee Record.

A Solly Opinion.

It is the style now for a lawyer to plead conspiracy for himself and his client. It is a pity that more juries do not "conspire" to convict some of the cowardly assassins and conscienceless scoundrels who whine about conspiracies bringing them to justice.—St. Petersburg Independent.

Florida's Best Crop.

The present winter has been all the truckers of the state could wish for a full early crop, and the yield up and down the East Coast, as well as in the gulf counties will be immense this spring. The value of the vegetable crops of Florida exceeds that of the orange, grapefruit and tangerines by many thousands of dollars. DeLand Record.

Relegate It to the Garret.

The contest over the location of the monument to Wirz, governor of Andersonville prison during the civil war, still goes on. It would be better if the whole matter were relegated to the garret. The career of Wirz, however heroic and commendable it may have been—notwithstanding a general belief to the contrary—was not in a line of action that breeds men qualified for monuments. The whole movement is a piece of foolery that is preserved from fitting denunciation only because the authors of it are chiefly women.—Tampa Times.

The Ghost of Mob Violence.

The story of the mob doings at Lakeland presents a horrible picture. Human passion the world over is the same, but civilization's task is to curb and control passion. The mob's action will injure Lakeland—and Florida—for years to come. Dozens of white men becoming avenging fiends and despising the law does not help the case of one ignorant negro becoming a fiend of lust and defying the law. The good people of Lakeland should have a care lest the ghost of mob violence shall rise to plague them.—St. Petersburg Independent.

Don't See It in the Paper.

The other day a local merchant happened to see a farmer receiving some goods at the depot and noticed that they came from a Chicago mail order house. He noticed also that the goods were right in his line and the same he had carried in his store for years. He immediately approached the farmer and said: "I could have sold you every article you have there for less money than you paid the Chicago house and save your freight besides." "Then, why in the devil didn't you say so?"



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answered the farmer. "I have taken The Times for years and have never seen a line about you selling these goods. This mail order house sent advertising matter to me asking for my trade and they got it. If you have any bargains why don't you have them put in the paper so we can see what they are?" That ended the argument and the merchant went to corral other merchants who never advertise and explain to them that the mail order house was ruining their business.—Valdosta Times.

The Record on the Trail.

We have taken the matter up with the attorney-general relative to the taxes paid by Armour & Co. for operating their thousands of refrigerator cars in Florida, and we have also asked where Manatee county comes in. Armour & Co. make thousands of dollars annually out of the people of Manatee county and it's only fair that they should help pay the bills. Everything else is licensed and taxed and why not this grab-all corporation. We have asked the attorney-general to go to the bottom of the matter, and when we hear from him we will act further.—Manatee Record.

Don't Know It Half Hard Enough.

It is proper to remind the farmers of Florida that in the northwestern packing centers men are paying about and above \$6 a hundred for choice fat hogs and steers. So the butchers are in Florida, but the trouble with us is that we are buying cured meat from the northwest at 20 cents and more a pound instead of producing enough for our own eating. For hogs and steers can be produced in Florida for \$2 or \$3 a hundred, and can be sold at a profit of 100 per cent—but a great many people seem never to have found it out, and those that do know it, don't know it half hard enough.—Tampa Times.

Florida Weekly Papers.

We must remark again as to the character of the Florida weekly newspapers. It is a real pleasure to look over our exchanges. An editorial from one of them, comprising a clipping from another was used on the first page of the Advocate. That extract has been copied by seven papers that we have seen. The last to quote the extract was the Alabama Christian Advocate. It is wonderful how even the small towns can support such fine newspapers. We take off our hats to you, brethren of the weekly press. We appreciate your fellowship and feel that we are in good company.—Florida Christian Advocate.

Jordan Doesn't Enforce Law.

Editor Hays of the Arcadia News is of the opinion that the liquor dealers have entire knowledge of every act of legislation in the United States which in any way affects their business, and he is doubtless right about it. But as for the State inspector being lenient with them on account of their ignorance, this is a matter that will rest with the Department of Agriculture. In the Inspector's statements to a Jacksonville Metropolis reporter, either he was not specific in the language he used or the reporter misunderstood him, for Hon. B. E. McLin and Capt. R. E. Rose are the officials who enforce the law, and the inspector is subject to their instructions.—Punta Gorda Herald.

A More Sensible View.

The Suwannee Democrat argues that suicide is a proof of civilization and draws comfort from two recent instances, thus: "Suicide is a proof of self-consciousness, and self-consciousness is a proof of civilization. Two Pensacola negroes committed suicide the other day, hence they were civilized, and as they were doubtless types of a large class it is fair to assume that civilization is making headway among the brethren in black." This is a more sensible view than the one that suicide is always "rash." It is usual to characterize suicide as "the rash act," as though it were the only rash act a man could commit. Now, there's marriage, for instance. Isn't it "rash" in some cases?—Times-Union.

Editor and Cash Has Disappeared.

Our editor Mr. A. L. Buchanan has left us four weeks ago and we do not know the cause of his prolonged absence. After trying to ascertain his whereabouts without any results, we have come to the conclusion that he left for good and has no intention of disclosing his present abode. It leaves us in a bad plight as Mr. A. L. Buchanan had full charge of the editorial as well as financial department of the paper and we have lost both the editor as well as the funds. Under these cir-

cumstances there is nothing left but to suspend the Argus until we can make other arrangements. We can only say at this writing that we are negotiating to have the Argus continued and hope to bring the deal to a successful issue shortly. The Argus started under the brightest auspices and we are very sorry that this unfortunate affair occurred. We had full confidence in the Rev. A. L. Buchanan and still have some hope that he may return and can explain his absence satisfactory to all. A report reached us about a month ago that he was sick in a hospital in Jacksonville, but he cannot be located.—Sopchoppy Argus.

A Fire Warden Needed.

The Lake Butler Star says that forest fires are destroying timber and fences at a disastrous rate in that section, that from Lake Butler to New River it seems to be all fire. It suggests: "We have game and fish warden. It seems that each county needs a fire warden. This reckless practice of burning the woods is damaging the lands, timber and property of the state hundreds of thousands of dollars every year. We have a good fire law which if it were enforced and applied to a few of these people setting the woods on fire would be a blessing to all of us." The suggestion is a good one, so long as so much recklessness is displayed in firing the forests and there are so few convictions for violations of the law. It is illegal to set fire to the grass before next Monday.—Times-Union.

He Is After the Oyster Dealers.

Hon. A. P. Jordan, the efficient State food and drug inspector, is still in Tampa. He finds it a big town and it requires considerable time to thoroughly canvass it in order to satisfy himself that the various dealers in food articles and drugs are complying with the law. Mr. Jordan said yesterday

that he had been informed that some of the shippers and dealers in "shucked" oysters are using an unwholesome amount of preservative, for which they are liable to a fine of \$1,000 and one year's imprisonment. He is now making a thorough investigation into this particular matter. Mr. Jordan is proving himself the right man in the right place and it will be a smooth individual indeed who palms off anything impure upon the people of Florida while Jordan is "on the job."—Tampa Tribune.

The True Reason for It.

Sheriff Van Pelt of Escambia county has been discussed and "cussed" some too, for his action in enforcing the Sunday closing law in Pensacola. Might we ask what the law is on the statute books for if it is not intended to be enforced? But neither of the Pensacola papers have given the true situation in reference to his action. The company building the new American National Bank building wanted to work on Sunday and asked permission to do so, to violate the law in other words. Mr. Van Pelt properly told them that he had no right to grant immunity to any one for violating the law. "Very well then," they said, "enforce the law against all or stand the consequences." And there he was. So after all the commendation he deserves is for enforcing the law in the first instance only.—DeFuniak Breeze.

The Priscillas were charmingly entertained Wednesday afternoon by Mrs. W. L. Tedder at her home on Houston street. As usual, these ladies had a delightful time. Threading needles was an amusing contest in which, Mrs. R. L. White won the prize—a lovely silk work bag. Delicious refreshments, consisting of ice cream, cake and coffee were faultlessly served. Mrs. Tedder was assisted in entertaining by Miss Penny.

Our good friend, C. J. McGehee, of Jacksonville, was in the city Wednesday, looking after business interests. We have been hoping that Mr. McGehee and family would move back to Live Oak, their old home city, and we are still hoping along that line, although he would not say anything very encouraging when approached in the subject Wednesday by a Democrat reporter. Mr. McGehee is interested in a number of business enterprises in Florida and he could look after his business interests from here to as good advantage it seems to us, as from Jacksonville or any other point in the State.

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